



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

Selectmen's Minutes 09/13/2010

TOWN OF ARLINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 13, 2010

7:15 p.m.

Present: Mrs. Mahon, Chair, Ms. LaCourt, Vice Chair, Mr. Greeley, Mr. Hurd and Ms. Rowe.

Also present: Mr. Sullivan, Ms. Rice, and Mrs. Sullivan.

FOR APPROVAL

1. **CONSENT AGENDA (one vote required for approval of all items)**

- a. Minutes of Meetings: August 9, 2010
 - b. Approval: Eye Mobile on Street @ 730 Mass. Ave., 10/28/10 - 10/30/10
Ben Warren, Arlington Lions Club
 - c. For Approval: Keno Monitor
Alosia Club, 19 Prentiss Road
 - d. REAPPOINTMENTS
Arlington Cultural Council
Anyahlee Suderman
Stephanie Marlin-Curiel
(terms to expire 8/2013)
Zoning Board of Appeals
Eugene Lucarelli
(term to expire 10/1/2013)
 - e. APPOINTMENT
New Election Workers
Carleen Farrell, 38 Ronald Rd., Pct. 19
Paul R. Robinson, 75 Park Ave. Ext., Pct. 17
Rebecca Shevin, 11 Allen St., Pct. 20
Marilyn Sullivan, 167 Crosby St., Pct. 14
Richard Sullivan, 167 Crosby St., Pct. 14
James Whiting, 44 Harlow St., Pct. 5
 - f. Request: Hanging of Banners in Arlington Center for Arlington Reads Together
Maryellen Loud, Library Director
- Ms. Rowe moved approval. SO VOTED (5-0)

2. **Arlington School Committee \$1.5 Million Shortfall**

Notice to District Attorney

Diane M. Mahon, Chair

After much discussion among the Selectmen, School Committee Chair, Joseph Curro, Town Manager, Brian Sullivan, Assessor, Robert Greeley, Treasurer, Stephen Gilligan and Town Moderator, John Leone, it was decided to call a Special Town Meeting regarding the shortfall and send a letter to the District Attorney's office.

Mr. Curro stated the School Committee supports:

- There are no excuses, but there are explanations as to why the school district has a \$1.5 million deficit for FY

2010.

- There is a range of reactions to this deficit and although there should be accountability and a call for personnel action is not out of the question, he is asking for everyone to wait for an audit to be done for an explanation and recommendations to ensure it doesn't happen in the future. He asked for Selectmen support on this, it should take about six weeks.
- There is a new purchasing process in place, a centralized system for better management.
- There is a new accounts reporting system for better management.
- There is a new tracking/controls for new positions.
- Involvement of the Finance Committee to work with the school budgets.
- The superintendent is involved with working with other Town officials.

Mr. Sullivan stated that there are a number of steps needed to be taken:

- Review of the school's plan to close \$1.5 million gap to ensure that there is no repeat deficit in FY11.
- Complete a FY10 budget to actual analysis and report and convert the FY10 and FY11 budgets (which are in different formats) to allow an apples to apples comparison.
- Engage the Town's independent auditors to conduct a review as to how the deficit occurred and why it was not addressed timely.
- Recommend revised accounting and control procedures to ensure that this is not repeated.
- Engage a consultant for special education operational review.
- Have a Special Town Meeting to look at reductions in the budget to cover the deficit.
- Everything must be in place to set the tax rate on time for this year.
- The District Attorney must be notified of the deficit.

Mr. Greeley and Mr. Gilligan stated there should be no problem setting the tax rate as long as the Special Town Meeting is planned timely.

Attorney Leone requested on behalf of Town Meeting that all School Committee Members, the Superintendent, and Chief Financial Officer be in attendance seated up front for the Special Town Meeting to answer all questions. The Selectmen expressed concern with the deficit, but agreed to wait to see the audit results. They thanked the School Committee for coming to discuss the situation and are happy the schools are working together with other leaders over this matter. There was a request that the independent school auditors and Powers & Sullivan auditors work/communicate closely so as not to duplicate efforts and both offer explanations and recommendations. Mr. Curran, speaking as a resident not a School Committee member, expressed his frustration asking when will enough be enough regarding the handling of school finances. He wants taxpayers and elected officials to be more concerned and question the finances within the school district.

Ms. LaCourt moved to approve the letter with corrections.

SO VOTED (5-0)

It was discussed that the Mrs. Mahon set a date for the next Budget Revenue Task Force meeting.

3. **Vote: Special Town Meeting**

Opening of Special Town Meeting Warrant

Diane M. Mahon, Chair

Mr. Greeley moved approval for Special Town Meeting on November 15, 2010, and to have the Warrant Opening on September 23, 2010 from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

SO VOTED (5-0)

APPOINTMENTS

4. **Appointment: Vision 2020**

Mary A. Harrison

(term to expire 6/30/2013)

Ms. LaCourt moved approval.

SO VOTED (5-0)

5. **Appointments: Arlington Cultural Council**

Margaret Barrett

Karin Blum

Kurt Fusaris

(terms to expire 9/2013)

Mr. Hurd moved approval.

SO VOTED (5-0)

LICENSES & PERMITS

6. Request: Outside Furniture Permit

Iir Velagoshti d/b/a Gemma Italian Ristorante, 319 Broadway

Ms. LaCourt moved approval.

SO VOTED (5-0)

Mr. Sullivan stated he would work with restaurants to coordinate a program for plaza outside seating maintenance.

7. CITIZENS OPEN FORUM

This matter was presented for consideration of the Board.

Mr. Lawrence McKinney came to talk to the Selectmen about Uncle Sam and possible new ways to highlight his work as a historical point of interest for tourism in Arlington.

TRAFFIC RULES & ORDERS/OTHER BUSINESS

8. For Approval: Knights of Columbus Signs

Chris Powers, Grand Knight

Ray Carmichael

Mr. Greeley moved approval and referred to the Town Manager to coordinate.

SO VOTED (5-0)

9. Vote: Transportation Advisory Committee

Speed Bump on Eustis Street

Howard Muise

Ms. LaCourt moved approval of TAC's recommendation of not putting a speed bump on Eustis Street.

SO VOTED (5-0)

10. For Approval: Execution of Leases for Parmenter and Crosby Schools

Brian F. Sullivan, Town Manager

Mr. Hurd moved approval of the Arlington Children's Center and International School of Boston/Parmenter School Building Leases.

SO VOTED (5-0)

Mr. Hurd referred the Schools for Children/Crosby School Building Lease to a sub-committee for further research and to be on the 10/4/10 meeting agenda.

SO VOTED (5-0)

11. Discussion: Elks Club Noise Disturbance

Clarissa Rowe, Selectman

Ms. Rowe moved approval to hold a hearing on October 4, 2010 regarding the Elks Club noise disturbance.

SO VOTED (5-0)

Mr. Greeley asked Town Counsel to request from the Police Chief incident reports for the last five years at the club.

SO VOTED (5-0)

12. Alcohol Compliance Report

Juliana Rice, Town Counsel

Mr. Hurd moved approval to hold a hearing on October 4, 2010 regarding the non-compliance issue with Pasha Restaurant.

SO VOTED (5-0)

Correspondence Received

John L. Worden III, President
Arlington Preservation Fund

Change of Guidelines

Be Rec'd

Bill McCarthy
Director, Veterans' Services

Memorial Squares to be Authorized

Be Rec'd

There was discussion concerning the Memorial Committee and Mr. Duffy's resignation. Ms. Rowe will forward an

email to the Selectmen and they'll continue the discussion at a future time.

East Arlington Concerned
Citizens Committee

Mass. Ave. Corridor Project
Design Flaws

Be Rec'd

Ms. Rowe commented that she was offended by inferences made in the Mass. Ave. Corridor Project-Design Flaws letter regarding her professional work and intends to write back a personal response to clarify.

Darcy C. Devney
Robert M. Kuhn
110 Thorndike Street

Restrict Off-Leash Privileges to
Arlington Resident Dogs Only

Be Rec'd

Mustafa Varoglu
26 Shawnee Rd.

Park and Recreation Commission
and Off-Leash Dog Hours

Be Rec'd

Douglass Davidoff
45 Fairmont Street

In Favor of Bus Shelters

Be Rec'd

Christine Connolly, Director
Health & Human Services

AYCC Agency Name Change

Be Rec'd

Richard A. Duffy
122 Appleton Street

Committee Resignation

Be Rec'd

Bobbi Delaney
66 Dickson Avenue

Signage Facing 66 Dickson Avenue

Be Rec'd

Ms. Rowe asked the Town Manager to coordinate/communicate with Ms. Delaney regarding the signage complaints.

Ms. Rowe moved receipt of correspondence.

SO VOTED (5-0)

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Sullivan notified the Selectmen of the MMA breakfast meeting in Arlington on October 15, 2010.

Mr. Sullivan reported that there would be a meeting regarding Busa Land Farm usage September 15, 2010, at Carey Hall Auditorium with other dates of October 7th and November 4th. Anyone interested should attend.

Ms. Rowe reminded everyone to vote at the State Primary Election, Tuesday, September 14, 2010.

Ms. Rowe asked everyone to stop by the Land Trust booth to support the buying of Elizabeth Island and the Tree Committee booth at Town Day to help support. She also announced after a meeting with NStar that no more trees would be cut until the Town and NStar come to agreement on tree cutting.

Mr. Hurd stated that the Pleasant St./Mass. Ave. light signal has been corrected and that the signage for no bike riding signs on sidewalks were installed.

Mr. Hurd requested that the Town Manager research the Town adding as a fundamental service the cleaning of catch basins of private ways, which are currently excluded as a service.

Mrs. Mahon reported that the Town Planner is working with the state refining the 25% plan for the Mass. Ave. project. Mrs. Mahon announced there are two openings on the Redevelopment Board. Mr. Sullivan stated it has been advertised and have some applicants.

Mr. Hurd moved to adjourn at 9:45 p.m.

SO VOTED (5-0)

A true record: Attest

Mary Ann Sullivan
Selectmen's Office

Next meeting of BoS Monday, September 20, 2010.